

# THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

**Tuesday 1st April 2008 7:15 for 7:45**

The Large Seminar Room, Institute of Public Health,  
University Forvie Site, Robinson Way, Cambridge

## **Don't act like a burglar - collecting data on who lives in a house**

**Paul Garcia**

Hertfordshire County Council

**Abstract:** In this presentation Paul shall describe his role as a population forecaster at Hertfordshire County Council, and why, in 2002, he was moved to apply to the RSS for funding to carry out a project to collect data on the ages of residents of recent housing developments. The process and problems of organising such a survey, some of the incidents that occurred, and some of the peculiarities of the general public will be described. The resulting models will be demonstrated, with some comments on their efficacy, and some comments about the acceptability of these results generally.

**Speaker:** Paul did a first degree with the Open University and trained as a mathematics teacher in the early 1980s. He worked in schools and further education colleges, and completed a Master's degree in mathematics in 1995. In 1996 he took a year out to do a Master's degree in information and knowledge technology, with a view to a change of career, but returned to teaching until 2001, taking up his present post as Senior Property Review Officer (Demographics) at Hertfordshire County Council. Paul completed a PhD in the History of Mathematics in 2006. In 2003 Paul was the Royal Statistical Society Champion Fellow.

**Directions :** (From Central Cambridge) Turn right off Hills Road into the Addenbrooke's site then turn left at the hospital roundabout onto Robinson Way. Follow Robinson Way until you see an access road on the left signed 'Forvie Site' (but note that the sign is on your right). Turn into the access road and follow signs - first to the Institute and then to the Large Seminar Room. There is ample car parking. The front doors will be locked at 7:45. Arrivals after 7:45pm can gain admittance by contacting the secretary on 07761769436.

### **Provisional Next Meetings:**

29th April - Stephen Sharp (MRC) on 'Working as a medical statistician in academia and industry: how do they compare?'

28th October - Simon Tavaré (Dept. Applied Mathematics & Theoretical Physics).

**Supper:** Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at **5-30pm**. Feel free to join them.

**Subscriptions:** of 1 pound are now due for attending the 2007-2008 session.

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**Take a look at our website:** <http://www.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/~peterw/csdg.htm>